

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~Method to change development of a plant or plant part compared to the wild-type plant or plant part, said method comprising:~~

~~increasing or decreasing expression in a plant or plant part of a cdc27a nucleic acid sequence and/or increasing or decreasing levels and/or activity in a plant of a CDC27A protein~~

A method for modifying the development of a plant comprising:

transforming a plant cell with a nucleic acid encoding a CDC27A protein that is at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 2,

producing a plant or plant part from said transformed cell; and

selecting a plant or plant part that has at least one modified phenotype compared to a plant produced from a corresponding untransformed plant cell, wherein said modified phenotype is selected from the group consisting of increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a plant organ, earlier flowering, or accelerated development compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein
said nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide that is at least 99% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 2

~~said increased or decreased ede27a expression, CDC27A protein level or CDC27A protein activity, is effected by recombinant means and/or by chemical means.~~

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein
said nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2
~~comprising introducing into a plant, a nucleic acid sequence capable of increasing or decreasing expression of a cdc27a gene and/or capable of increasing or decreasing activity and/or levels of a CDC27A protein.~~

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 [[3]],
wherein said plant cell is transformed with a plasmid vector containing said nucleic acid sequence nucleic acid sequence is a ede27a nucleic acid.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 [[4]],
wherein said cdc27a nucleic acid sequence is obtained from a dicotyledonous plant.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 [[3]],
wherein said cdc27a nucleic acid sequence is an allelic variant of the cdc27a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 of a ede27a nucleic acid sequence or wherein said CDC27A protein is encoded by an allelic variant.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 [[3]], wherein said nucleic acid sequence is a splice variant of a cdc27a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 or wherein said CDC27A protein is encoded by a splice variant.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 [[3]], wherein said nucleic acid sequence is introduced in a sense direction into a plant.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 [[3]], wherein expression of said nucleic acid is driven by a constitutive promoter.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said changed development is selected from changed differentiation, changed rate of development, changed organ formation, changed organ size and/or number, and/or changed reproductive characteristics, relative to the wild-type characteristics.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 10, wherein said changed differentiation is accelerated differentiation or wherein said changed rate of development is accelerated rate of development or wherein said changed organ formation is accelerated organ formation.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 10, wherein said changed organ size and/or number is increased organ size and/or number, such as increased number of leaves, increased number of flowers, increased number of seeds, increased size of the stem, increased size of the leaf, or increased total biomass.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 10, wherein said changed reproductive characteristic is a changed flowering characteristic, compared to the wild-type.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method for the production of a transgenic plant having changed development, compared to a wild-type plant of the same plant species, said method comprising:

introducing into a plant, a nucleic acid sequence capable of increasing or decreasing expression of a cdc27a gene and/or capable of increasing or decreasing activity and/or levels of a CDC27A protein; and optionally

cultivating the plant cell under conditions promoting regeneration and mature plant growth.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method for generating plants having changed plant development, when compared to wild-type plants of the same plant species, which said method comprising:

~~Growing~~ growing a plant with increased or decreased expression of a cdc27a nucleic acid sequence and/or having increased or decreased levels and/or activity of a CDC27A protein, when compared to the wild-type plants, and

~~Crossing~~ crossing said plant of (a) with a plant of interest; and

~~Producing~~ producing progeny of the cross, and optionally

selecting said progeny with said changed development

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 1, comprising the introduction into a plant of a construct comprising,

- (i) a nucleic acid sequence capable of increasing or decreasing expression of a cdc27a nucleic acid and/or capable of increasing or decreasing levels and/or activity of a CDC27A protein;
- (ii) one or more control sequence(s) capable of regulating expression of the nucleic acid sequence of (i) in a plant; and optionally
- (iii) a transcription termination sequence.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~Plant A~~ The plant obtained by said ~~the~~ method according to claim 1, wherein said plant has changed development, ~~when~~ compared to a corresponding wild-type plant[[s]] of the same species.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~Plant~~ The plant of claim 17 having changed development when compared to the corresponding wild-type plant, wherein said plant has in at least one cell increased or decreased expression of a cdc27a nucleic acid sequence and/or has in at least one cell increased or decreased levels and/or activity of a CDC27A protein, when compared to a wild-type plant of the same plant species.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~Plant~~ The plant according to claim 17, wherein said plant is a monocotyledonous plant, and/or wherein said plant is selected from rice, maize, wheat, barley, millet, soybean, leguminosae, rapeseed, sunflower, canola, alfalfa, sugarcane, popular, tobacco, and cotton.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): ~~Plant~~ The plant part, a propagule or progeny from a plant according to claim 17.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~Genetic A genetic~~ construct comprising[[,]]:
a nucleic acid sequence capable of increasing or decreasing expression of a cdc27a nucleic acid and/or capable of increasing or decreasing levels and/or activity of a CDC27A protein;

one or more control sequence capable of regulating expression of the nucleic acid sequence of (i) in a plant; and optionally
a transcription termination sequence.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~Genetic~~ The genetic construct according to claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid is a cdc27a ede27a nucleic acid sequence obtained from a dicotyledonous plant.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~Genetic~~ The genetic construct according to claim 21, wherein said control sequence is a constitutive promoter or at least a part thereof.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): ~~Plant A plant~~ or plant part comprising [[a]] the genetic construct according to claim 21, wherein said plant or plant part has changed development.

Claims 25-29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): A food product derived from said plant according to claim 17 or from a part of said plant.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn): An animal feed or food comprising said plant or plant part according to claim 17.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn): A method for the production of one or more enzymes or pharmaceuticals, said method comprising:

producing said one or more enzymes or pharmaceuticals with said plant or plant part according to claim 17.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn): One or more industrial enzymes or pharmaceuticals produced by the method according to claim 32.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): Plant A plant according to claim 18, wherein said plant is a monocotyledonous plant, and/or wherein said plant is selected from rice, maize, wheat, barley, millet, soybean, leguminosae, rapeseed, sunflower, canola, alfalfa, sugarcane, popular, tobacco, and cotton.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): Plant A plant part, a propagule or progeny from said plant according to claim 18.

Claim 36 (Withdrawn): A food product derived from said plant according to claim 18 or from a part of said plant.

Claim 37 (Withdrawn): A food product derived from said plant or plant part according to claim 24.

Claim 38 (New): A method for modifying the development of a plant or a plant structure compared to an unmodified plant, comprising:

transforming a plant cell with a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a sequence having at least 95% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2, and

cultivating a plant or plant part from said transformed cell, wherein said plant or plant part has changed development compared to a corresponding plant or plant part obtained from a corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 39 (New): The method of claim 38, further comprising selecting a plant which has accelerated development compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed wild-type plant.

Claim 40 (New): The method of claim 38, further comprising selecting a plant which has a plant organ of increased size, an increased number of plant organs, or early flowering compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed wild-type plant.